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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO

New Delhi, India, 21 January–8 February 1980

Agenda item 5 (c)

ROUND-TABLE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Istanbul, Turkey, 1-5 October 1979

DECLARATION OF ISTANBUL

The Istanbul Round-Table Ministerial Meeting on the Promotion of Industrial Co-operation among Developing Countries

Taking note with appreciation actions initiated by UNIDO and the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the New Delhi Round-Table Ministerial Meeting held in January 1977;

Expressing satisfaction with the efforts of UNIDO in organizing Solidarity Ministerial Meetings in 1979 to assist some of the least developed countries amongst the developing countries;

Bearing in mind the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action, the Buenos Aires Declaration and Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, discussions in the international fora including UNCTAD V and especially decisions of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development;

Recognizing the slow progress achieved so far in implementing the Lima target of 25 per cent of global industrial production originating in developing countries;

Further recognizing with concern that industrialized countries are intensifying protectionist measures vis-à-vis the export of manufactures of developing countries, which, in turn, slows down the expansion of international trade;

Noting the present general trend of industrialized countries to reduce the technical and financial assistance needed for industrial development of developing countries and the need for greater collective self-reliance among themselves;

1. Reaffirms the importance of industrial and technological co-operation among developing countries as a vital instrument in the global industrial reshaping and industrial restructuring towards implementing the New International Economic Order.

2. Agrees to accelerate co-operation amongst developing countries to share industrial and technological capabilities and contribute to the implementation of the Lima target of at least 25 per cent of global industrial production originating in developing countries by the year 2000.

3. Further agrees to pay special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and urges UNIDO to organize similar solidarity meetings for their benefit.

4. Adopts unanimously the recommendations outlined below for transmittal to UNIDO III to be held in New Delhi in 1980 with a request that appropriate follow-up action be taken:

(a) Developing countries should initiate necessary policy measures that will facilitate the maximum utilization of expertise, consultancy, subcontracting and training facilities available in the developing countries themselves. Preferential treatment should be given to technology, manufactured goods and services originating in the developing countries.

(b) To facilitate the utilization of specific industrial capabilities available in developing countries UNIDO is requested to compile, in co-operation with governments concerned, a directory of facilities regarding consultancy, subcontracting, etc. available for use by other developing countries.

(c) Developing countries should endeavour to harmonize as far as possible their economic and industrial policies to facilitate the maximum utilization of industrial complementarity so as to achieve increased trade amongst themselves. Export-oriented industries should be encouraged.

(d) It is recommended that appropriate mechanisms for regional co-operation including establishment of Industrial Development Zones should be promoted. Regional and international organizations are requested to assist in this task.

(e) Developing countries should increasingly conclude bilateral and/or multilateral agreements of industrial co-operation among themselves for augmenting their industrial production particularly in areas identified by the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and the Round-Table Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi. Regional and international organizations should assist in this task. Developing countries should also streamline the mechanisms of co-operation.

(f) The share of trade of the developing countries in world manufactures should be significantly increased consistent with the industrial production target set by the Lima Declaration. Also volume of trade of manufactures among developing countries should be expanded substantially.

(g) Developing countries should strengthen their export promotion activities directed to other developing countries and more information be made available to facilitate this task. For this purpose financial assistance should be provided by the regional and international agencies.

(h) While pursuing co-operation with developed countries in transfer of technology, and since strengthening of national technological capabilities is basic to accelerate industrialization programmes, technological co-operation among developing countries should be given higher priority.

(i) The objectives of technological self-reliance should be the maximization of choice through increased knowledge and capability, developing the evaluative skills which permit appropriate choices of techniques, negotiation skills which make possible improved terms for technology imports, research and development skills which enable firms to unpackage technology and purchase components from least-cost suppliers. UNIDO should continue to play the catalytical role by collecting information on offers and demands, and attempting to bring interested parties together, and assist upon request, in the negotiation of agreements and in the provision of guidelines for them.

(j) Many developing countries have developed for their own use "centres of excellence" in specific industrial sectors which could further be developed in agreement with countries concerned as focal points for providing specialized services to other developing countries. Such centres should receive financial support for providing additional technological support to other countries and UNIDO should initiate co-operative programmes in this field.

(k) Developing countries should encourage their national research and development centres to take immediate measures to establish twinning arrangements with related institutions of other developing countries in order to improve their effectiveness and enhance their potential. Such collaboration would strengthen their capabilities by sharing work and experience with others working on the same problems at various levels.

(l) Developing countries should integrate the small industries development programme (including industrial estates) as part of a national plan in which complementarities of large and small industries are recognized. The small and medium industries should be technologically optimal and contribute in the building up of the technological capabilities. At the same time special attention should be paid to ensure that such industries become cost-competitive and economically feasible. In this way they can be an effective instrument in not only enlarging the industrial base in a competitive manner but also in achieving social objectives of employment, income distribution, etc..

(m) Since many developing countries have established technologically efficient small and medium industrial units, and have developed specialized skills, plant level co-operation among developing countries in this area would be beneficial and UNIDO should initiate such co-operation.

(n) Since development of industrial skills is crucial, and several developing countries have acquired them, a concerted effort should be made to assist each other. For this purpose, inventory of such skills should be established and industrial research and specialized institutions should allocate a certain percentage of their facilities to other developing countries. An offer made by the Government of Turkey was noted with appreciation.

(o) Developing countries should designate a nodal agency to act as a focal point of information on the skills and services available in them. Information available with such nodal agencies could be exchanged among developing countries for mutual benefit.

(p) The developing countries can achieve great benefits by establishing a close co-operation between their universities, other training institutions and industries at national and international levels. UNIDO should give a high priority to this activity.

(q) UNIDO should strengthen its activities relating to Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) so as to provide a link between users and suppliers of services among developing countries. UNIDO should examine the possibilities of developing INTIB as a nucleus of a "technology bank" as recommended by the First Round-Table Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi.

(r) It is recommended that UNIDO continues to organize periodically ministerial level meetings so as to provide a forum for continuous discussions of specific issues of common concern to developing countries. UNIDO should report to these meetings progress achieved in fostering industrial and technological co-operation among developing countries.

(s) UNIDO should strengthen its system of consultations and provide greater emphasis on co-operation among developing countries in specific sectors including better and fuller utilization of available capacities in developing countries.

(t) It is recommended that developing countries continue extending assistance to UNIDO, including financial resources to the UNIDO Industrial Development Fund.

(u) It is recommended that developing countries expedite ratification of UNIDO's constitution to enable it to assume the status of a specialized agency as soon as possible and to provide increased assistance to developing countries to accelerate their process of industrialization and to facilitate co-operation among developing countries.

Adopted in Istanbul
on 5 October 1979